

Amendments to the Claims:

The claims below replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for delivering information comprising:
prominently displaying in a physical setting a unique human-recognizable logo having sets of coordinated color-sets for the logo, including a border and a background;

digitally capturing, by a user, an electronic image of the unique human-recognizable logo as a graphic symbol in the physical setting;

identifying the graphic symbol within the electronic image;

tracking legal ownership of the unique human-recognizable logo by registering a visually unique human-recognizable logo with an official agency, wherein before registering the visually unique human-recognizable logo, a determination is made to confirm a predetermined difference between previous registrations to avoid misrecognition and intentional tampering;

~~digitally capturing an electronic image of the unique human-recognizable logo as a graphic symbol in the physical setting;~~

~~identifying the graphic symbol within the electronic image;~~

communicating said graphic symbol to a database of existing symbols;

matching said graphic symbol to one of said existing symbols; and

designating, by the legal owner of the logo, information associated with the graphic symbol; and

transmitting the information associated with said graphic symbol back to said electronic image that is in the user's possession, wherein a new updated version of the electronic image with the information associated with the graphic symbol is presented to the user.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said electronic image is obtained by one of:

a computer readable medium; and
an image capture device.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said identifying comprises:
automatically analyzing visual data of said electronic image; and
detecting a characteristic pattern in said visual data indicative of said
graphic symbol.

4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein said characteristic pattern comprises at least one of:

a size;
a shape; and
a set of colors.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
cropping said graphic symbol from said electronic image prior to said
communicating.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprises:
checking said communicated graphic symbol for visual anomalies; and
altering said visual anomalies prior to said matching.

7. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein said visual anomalies comprise one or more of:
- distortion;
 - blur;
 - noise;
 - brightness;
 - contrast;
 - perspective;
 - orientation; and
 - size.
8. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
- retrieving said information from said database associated with said matched existing symbol.
9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
- installing an access point to said transmitted information associated with said graphic symbol into said electronic image.
10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said access point comprises one or more of:
- a hyperlink;
 - a web URL;
 - an applet;
 - a user-selectable object;
 - a pop-up information box; and
 - an application shortcut.

11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said information comprises one or more of:

- metadata;
- hypertext markup language (HTML) tags;
- a uniform resource locator (URL) address;
- computer logic; and
- an interactive multimedia file.

12. (currently amended) An information management system comprising:
a unique human-recognizable logo having sets of coordinated color-sets for the logo, including a border and a background being prominently displayed in a physical setting, wherein legal ownership of a visually unique human-recognizable logo is tracked by registering the unique human-recognizable logo with an official agency, wherein before registering the visually unique human-recognizable logo, a determination is made to confirm a predetermined difference between previous registrations to avoid misrecognition and intentional tampering;

- an electronic image of the unique human-recognizable logo captured by a user with a digital camera and represented by a unique symbol;

- client-side logic executable by a client processor for detecting the unique symbol displayed within the visual image; and

- server-side logic executable by a server for matching said unique symbol to at least one of a plurality of stored symbols and returning data corresponding to said matched unique symbol to said client-side logic and designating, by the legal owner of the logo, marketing information associated with the graphic symbol, including World Wide Web hyperlinks to marketing material, business contact information and online interactive maps with driving directions to the business, and wherein, a new updated version of the electronic image with the information associated with the graphic symbol is presented to the user.

13. (original) The information management system of claim 12 further comprising:

an image capture device for capturing said visual image.

14. (original) The information management system of claim 12 wherein said client-side logic comprises:

an image recognition application for analyzing image data of said visual image.

15. (original) The information management system of claim 12 wherein said client-side logic comprises:

a cropping application for separating image data corresponding to said unique symbol from a remainder of said visual image.

16. (original) The information management system of claim 12 wherein said client-side logic comprises:

image logic for incorporating said returned data into said visual image; and
a graphical user interface tool for inserting a user access point to said returned data.

17. (original) The information management system of claim 16 wherein said user access point comprises one or more of:

a hyperlink;
a user-selectable object;
a pop-up information box; and
an application shortcut.

18. (original) The information management system of claim 12 further comprising:

a client communication interface for transmitting said unique symbol to said server; and

a server communication interface for receiving said unique symbol from said client and transmitting said data, wherein said client communication interface receives said data transmitted by said server.

19. (original) The information management system of claim 12 wherein said server-side logic comprises:

a graphics application for repairing defects in said detected unique symbol;

a search application for searching said plurality of stored symbols for a match; and

an error checking application for checking for errors during execution of said search application.

20. (original) The information management system of claim 19 further comprising:

an image manager for managing execution of said server-side logic on said server.

21. (original) The information management system of claim 12 wherein said client comprises one or more of:

- an image capture device;
- a personal computer (PC); and
- an application server in communication with one of said image capture device and said PC.

22. (previously presented) The information management system of claim 12 wherein said data comprises one or more of:

- metadata;
- hypertext markup language (HTML) tags;
- a uniform resource locator (URL) address;
- program logic; and
- an interactive multimedia file.

23. (currently amended) A method for automatically distributing information to a consumer comprising:

prominently displaying in a physical setting a unique human-recognizable logo having sets of coordinated color-sets for the logo, including a border and a background;

digitally capturing, by a user, an electronic image of the unique human-recognizable logo as a unique graphic symbol in the physical setting;

registering the unique graphic symbol from a vendor;

tracking legal ownership of a visually unique human-recognizable logo by registering the unique human-recognizable logo with an official agency, wherein before registering the visually unique human-recognizable logo, a determination is made to confirm a predetermined difference between previous registrations to avoid misrecognition and intentional tampering;

~~digitally capturing an electronic image of the unique human-recognizable logo as a unique graphic symbol in the physical setting;~~

~~registering the unique graphic symbol from a vendor;~~

designating, by the legal owner of the logo, information related to the graphic symbol;

storing information from said vendor related to said unique graphic symbol in a database;

receiving the electronic image of said unique graphic symbol automatically acquired from a picture provided by said consumer;

searching said database to match said image to said unique graphic symbol; and

transmitting said information related to said unique graphic symbol to said picture that is in the user's possession when a match is found, wherein a new updated version of the electronic image with the information associated with the graphic symbol is presented to the user.

24. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said image is automatically acquired at a device of said consumer.

25. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said consumer obtains said picture from one of:

- a computer readable medium; and
- an image capture device.

26. (original) The method of claim 23 further comprising:
creating said unique graphic symbol using a characteristic pattern,
wherein said characteristic pattern comprises at least one:

- a size;
- a shape; and
- a color scheme.

27. (original) The method of claim 23 further comprising:
reviewing said received image of said unique graphic symbol for visual
distortions; and
altering said visual distortions prior to said searching.

28. (original) The method of claim 27 wherein said visual distortions comprise one or more of:

- blur;
- size;
- noise;
- brightness;
- contrast;
- perspective;
- orientation; and
- deformation.

29. (original) The method of claim 23 further comprising:
searching said database for said information corresponding to said match.

30. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said information comprises one or more of:

- metadata;
- hypertext markup language (HTML) file;
- a uniform resource locator (URL) address;
- program logic; and
- interactive multimedia file.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 23 further comprising:
extracting said image of said unique graphic symbol from said picture
using code accessible by said consumer.

32. (original) The method of claim 31 wherein said code includes a cropping application for removing image data within said picture that is not related to said image of said unique graphic symbol.

33. (original) The method of claim 23 further comprising:
inserting an interface object in said picture, wherein said interface object provides said consumer access to said transmitted information.

34. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein said interface object comprises:
a hyperlink;
a web URL;
an applet;
a user-selectable object;
a dialog box; and
a short cut to an application.